



Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 8, 2003
Wisconsin Rapids City Council Chambers
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

LRSC MEMBERS PRESENT

Wisconsin Counties Association

Emmer Shields—Ashland County
Ed Brown – Juneau County
Chet Zurawik – Milwaukee County

Wisconsin Towns Association

Gene Lueck – Bloomer-Chippewa
Arlyn Helm – Springbrook-Washburn
Norm Faber – Ithaca-Richland
LaVerne Grunwald – Caledonia-Waupaca

League of Wisconsin Municipalities

Dave Waffle - Reedsburg
Dennis Melvin – West Bend
Bill Handlos - Manitowoc

Wisconsin Alliance of Cities

Rick Jones—Racine

**Regional Planning Commissions/
Metropolitan Planning Organizations**

Walt Raith—ECWRPC
Don Kush—WCWRPC

WisDOT STAFF PRESENT

Mary Forlenza
Steve Coons
Janice Watzke
Doug Dalton
Don Uelmen
Joe Nestler
Jerry Mentzel

Others Present

Phil Barnes – FHWA
Todd Pierce – TDA
Tom Boguszewski – Rock Co.
Marv Sampson – WTA
Larry Shiman – Opinion Dynamics
Ron Rutkowski – Milwaukee Co.

LRSC MEMBERS EXCUSED

Jeff Polenske – Milwaukee WAC
Ken Yunker - SEWRPC

Opening Business (Don Kush, Mary Forlenza)

Don Kush called the meeting to order. Mary Forlenza took roll call. Minutes from November 6, 2002 meeting were accepted as written.

Administrative Items (Don, Mary)

Introduction of New Council Members & WisDOT Staff. Don and Mary introduced the following new LRSC members and staff:

- WCA - Ed Brown from Juneau County and Chet Zurawik from Milwaukee County
- WTA - Arlyn Helm from Springbrook-Washburn Co.
- WisDOT - Steve Coons, Unit Leader for the Local Federal Unit (BTLR) and Jerry Mentzel, Director of District 8 (Superior).

Appointment of WisDOT Secretary Frank Busalacchi. Just recently appointed, LRSC members and WisDOT staff have not yet had the opportunity to meet with the new Secretary regarding LRSC activities. Secretary Busalacchi is aware of the Council and Mary will be working with the Secretary's Office to schedule a date for the LRSC leadership to meet with him.

WisDOT's new Executive Assistant is Randy Romanski and comes to WisDOT from the Department of Justice. At the time of the meeting, the WisDOT Deputy Secretary had not yet been announced. Following the meeting it was learned that Ruben Anthony, Jr. was appointed WisDOT's Deputy Secretary.

Dave Waffle asked if any of the WisDOT Division Administrators had been named. Mary responded that all WisDOT Administrators had been asked to submit a letter of resignation to the Governor and were currently functioning as "Acting Administrators" until new appointments are made.

Connections 2030 - Status of WisDOT's long-range transportation plan and its local road element.

Doug Dalton (WisDOT) gave a presentation to the council summarizing the Department's current effort to develop a long-range transportation vision and to review current and future needs, *Connections 2030*. Doug identified the following key areas:

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|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ✓ Plan Purpose | ✓ Transit Element Focus |
| ✓ Major work elements | ✓ Local Roads Element |
| ✓ What WisDOT envisions | ✓ Possible Portrayal of |
| ✓ Draft Goals | Recommendations for Each Corridor |
| ✓ Environmental Scan | ✓ Public Involvement and techniques |
| ✓ Policy Issues | ✓ Plan Documentation |
| ✓ Economic Development | ✓ District Involvement |
| ✓ Existing Plan Updates | ✓ MPO/RPC Involvement |
| ✓ State Highway Element | ✓ What's Next |

While discussing major work elements, Don Kush asked if there was going to be a rail element. Doug said they are working on a plan for rail and air and these should be completed in summer of 2004. He also mentioned that the consulting firm of Tries & Rice has been hired to do the public outreach for the plan.

Don Uelmen (WisDOT) then gave a presentation on the local roads element of *Connections 2030*. Don explained that the 1996 outreach effort for WisDOT's *Translinks 21* identified the need for a local road element in the next update of the plan. As a result, WisDOT would like to include a detailed analysis of the dollar estimate of local road needs as part of *Connection 2030*. WISLR will be a key source of data for this element.

Don emphasized that the local roads element of *Connections 2030* will be a *planning assessment tool* rather than a detailed design level tool. The purpose of the document is to provide statewide associations (WTA, WCHA, WCA, etc.) with a tool to use to educate and inform the legislature on local road needs. Don then reviewed the 6 factors that will be used to analyze local roads needs:

Mobility Factor – Congestion assessment to determine the number of miles and/or percent of lane miles that exceed capacity. Data sources for analysis include local roads database, MPO plans and travel demand models, WisDOT traffic forecasts, and WisDOT's Facilities Design Manual (FDM).

Safety Factor – Crash rate analysis by highway group, functional and jurisdictional class. Source of data will be WisDOT's crash data file.

Geometric Factor – Measures of existing roadways and pavements. Analyze number of miles of substandard lane width/shoulder width using FDM and local roads database.

Bridge Factor – Quantify the percent of deficient bridges (20 feet or greater) based on rate score, deck condition, bridge age, deck age and number of bridges posted for weight and travel restrictions. Data source will be the WisDOT bridge file

Highway Load Restriction Factor – Determine the number of miles deficient if posted for less than legal weight limits. Don drafted a survey to use for collection the data.

Pavement Condition Factor (Paser Rating) – Includes number of lane miles, centerline miles, etc. by pavement condition rating. WISLR will provide information by functional class, jurisdictional class, pavement type, urban vs. rural, statewide, county and CVT/MCD.

Federal Reauthorization Update (Beth Nachreiner, WisDOT)

Beth provided an update to the Council on the department's current positions and informed them of the upcoming stakeholder meetings and the format for those.

Beth identified the following issues:

- ◆ Reauthorization of TEA21 (Where things are at with federal government)
- ◆ Timeline to complete TEA21 (This year is about getting a bill completed)
- ◆ Two key issues for highways (Size of the pie and cutting the pie)
- ◆ Ethanol revenue losses to Wisconsin
- ◆ Existing highway trust fund formula
- ◆ New approach to the highway trust fund formula

State associations are looking at tax credit bonds that require debt service payment on the bonds. WisDOT is opposed to paying for these out of the state transportation fund.

Beth discussed the following issues for reauthorization of TEA 21:

- ◆ How is Wisconsin going to fare in the next budget?
- ◆ The objective is for Wisconsin to receive at least one dollar back for every dollar provided by the federal government.
- ◆ Not enough Interstate lane miles to get a better rate of return for the poor ones.
- ◆ Turn back based on the National Highway System, not the Interstate System because that wouldn't benefit Wisconsin.
- ◆ Transit – The New Start category may be beneficial to Wisconsin

Other. Rick Jones – brought an article from a local paper along for everyone to read regarding the budget.

WISLR Update (Joe Nestler, WisDOT)

Current Status of Application. Joe Nestler provided an update to the Council regarding the status of the WISLR application, the WISLR training program and development of Paserware Version 3.0.

- ◆ There are 103 non-dot users with 20 within the department. A previous survey (2001) indicated that over 400 said they would use. Will be doing another survey.
- ◆ The pavement analysis tools have not yet been developed. The focus right now is on getting certification packets completed and critical database cleanup/fixes. The analytical tools will be developed after completion of these items.
- ◆ The physical inventory data, converted from the old database, can be viewed.
- ◆ The ability to query is not available yet, but coming soon.
- ◆ Viewing and downloading certification reports is available – break down of mileage.
- ◆ Viewing and downloading CVT (city, village, town) maps is available though a plotter is required to print the maps.
- ◆ Error correction – known problems.
 - Road names – best available centerline data – used local coverages, Tiger maps (e.g. Census Bureau) or CVT maps. Some times the names were wrong – about 99% correct now.
 - 2002 CVT map quality was less than desirable. We are revisiting how we generate CVT maps.
 - Borders – we used maps that came in and are cleaning up data the best we can – we have 1,922 existing maps that we would have had to stitch together.
- ◆ Local Control Management (LCM) - Location control changes area made by WisDOT district local road coordinators. This encompasses items such as new roads, annexations, abandonments, etc.

Training Development & Implementation. We are working on designing a one-day training session for locals. We currently are working on the logistics for classroom training (e.g. where and how many need to be trained). We would like to complete the training this spring, though this may go into the summer if necessary.

Paserware v3.0. A long-term question we are investigating is the use of UW-TIC training options for WISLR training.

Monthly Report of Progress. A question was asked about how worthwhile it is to do a basic analysis of the current data. Joe confirmed that this is appropriate but right now there aren't available resources to do this. The data is not completely loaded, but once that is completed, data review will be conducted.

Joe was asked if the pavement condition data should be submitted to WisDOT in December 2003 in the same format as the 2001 submittal. Joe said a Paserware download will be available using the On/At referencing system. He mentioned that On/At will now become a requirement and there will be a learning curve attached to this. It was suggested that WisDOT might want to consider providing a blank column for locals to enter prior (e.g. From/To) information to link the data sets.

The LRSC has requested a monthly status on WISLR from Joe. This will be coordinated through Bill Handlos as Chair of the Infrastructure Management Committee and will be distributed on the 1st of each month.

There was discussion about what would happen if WISLR were not funded and the point that resource decisions would be compromised without this data. It was suggested that when the Council meets with the Secretary that the leadership should emphasize the importance of WISLR. Other state agencies and local communities will be able to use the database information and expand the usefulness of the system.

There was also conversation about trying to track costs and the recognition that there is no place to log costs on the Construction Report. Tracking costs may need to be done through some other venue.

Coding functionality in is itself not a big deal – if locals are putting in it's not a problem, but if local coordination putting in it than its a problem.

Council on Research Project (Mary, Larry Shiman of Opinion Dynamics)

Larry passed out a staff interview summary sheet and talked to the group about the status of the qualitative interviews.

Larry will be evaluating the whole communication process. He mentioned that he found it interesting how each person interprets things. He will be evaluating the project as a whole and what lessons can be drawn from this project.

Larry is planning on using these methods:

- WisDOT staff interviews
- In-depth interviews of external stakeholders (including all assn. directors)
- Quantitative survey of all local communities

He noted that each interview could provide useful information recognizing the different experiences and perspectives of survey participants. Larry said that each community that

did not submit pavement ratings to WisDOT would be contacted. He added that Rick Stadelman from WTA has a list of non-compliers and will be assisting in this effort. Bill Handlos also requested a list of non-compliers from the League of Wisconsin Municipalities. Mary will forward the list to Bill.

Committee Updates

Education and Outreach.

The winter edition of the LRSC newsletter is out. The LRSC Biennial Report has been delayed because of the new administration. The intention is to get the report printed in early February. The committee has also been providing input into the COR project.

Infrastructure Management.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2003 at the Green Bay District office. Bill mentioned that the best management practices initiative is going to be pushed back a bit. Joe Nestler and Don Uelmen from WisDOT will attend the February meeting. A map and agenda will be e-mailed.

Other items that were discussed include vehicle load limits, erosion control articles and upcoming UW-TIC workshops. Feb 13th - budget will not have any information until 19th more informational than anything.

Regulatory, Education & Legislative.

The committee is putting together a working conference with WisDOT, WIDNR and local transportation representatives. The committee is exploring ways to cut cost, review time, save some dollars, and develop a more efficient way to deliver project. The timing is good since WIDNR doesn't have staff resources to review projects.

The initiative is looking at the entire environmental process to identify the real problems and actively work toward solutions. The outcome is to forge a better relationship with the DNR and to try and adjust the process for the state and locals. A working conference is planned for March with invited state agency, local government and industry representatives. It is envisioned that participants will break into groups and work on selected problems. At the last meeting the group spent a lot of time on problem identification.

A focus of this effort is on creating a better working relationship between the state and local communities. A mission statement, "Serving the public interest together", has been tentatively developed. The next REAL Committee meeting is scheduled for next week.

Closing Business

Draft Agenda for March Council Meeting

- Community Sensitive Design Training
- NACO Position
- TDA – Fly In
- Budget issues
- Standing committee reports
- Agenda for Ember's meeting
- Executive committee update with secretary

The Executive Committee will work together to prepare for their meeting with WisDOT Secretary Busalacchi. The new Secretary doesn't know what the council has accomplished over the last seven years, so a summary will be developed to highlight the benefits and outcomes that have been produced by the council.

Adjourn

Council Chair Don Kush adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.